

**Statement on Federal Action on
Potential Electricity Shortages in
California**

August 3, 2000

Today I am directing all Federal agencies to take steps to reduce consumption of electricity in California to the maximum extent possible. As one of the largest power consumers in California, it is critical that the Federal Government take every possible step to reduce non-essential power consumption at Federal facilities in the State.

During power shortage emergencies, it also is important that we increase our generation of power in the West, much of which is supplied to California customers. Therefore, I also am directing that Federal agencies that generate power, and the Federal Power Marketing Administrations, take all possible steps to maximize the amount of electricity that can be delivered to California.

These short-term measures will assist California utilities and consumers in meeting electricity needs during this critical period.

**Memorandum on Potential
Electricity Shortages in California**

August 3, 2000

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

*Subject: Potential Electricity Shortages in
California*

The increased demand for electricity during summer heat waves can make it a challenge for electric utilities to meet the demands of their customers. Currently, the supply of electric power is tight in California due to record demand for electricity. The State faces the possibility of rolling blackouts in some areas. These conditions put both consumers and businesses at risk.

The Federal Government is among the largest consumers of electricity in California. It is important that we lead by example in taking energy-conserving steps to reduce the

risk and severity of power outages. Therefore, I direct that:

- Managers of Federal buildings in California take steps to reduce consumption of power to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the health and welfare of employees; and,
- Federal agencies coordinate with other State and local government agencies to minimize the use of electricity in all government buildings in California.

Further, although most of the electricity in the Western United States is generated and marketed by privately and publicly owned utilities, the Federal Government also generates and markets electricity in the region. For the duration of the current power shortage emergency, I direct that:

- Federal agencies that generate electricity take all possible measures, consistent with existing laws and regulations, to maximize the amount of electricity that can be delivered to California; and,
- Federal Power Marketing Administrations take all steps necessary to maximize the availability of electricity in California.

I also direct Federal agencies to work with the State of California to develop procedures governing the use of backup power generation in power shortage emergencies.

Although these are important steps that can help reduce the risk of power shortages in the short term, we need a more comprehensive approach for the long term. I therefore further direct each of you to continue working towards the goals of Executive Order 13123, Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management, and to continue working with the Congress on comprehensive electricity restructuring legislation, which can promote greater investment in generation and transmission facilities, enhance the efficiency of the interstate transmission grid, and promote energy efficiency programs.

William J. Clinton

Statement Announcing an Upcoming Visit and Further Assistance to Colombia

August 4, 2000

I am pleased to announce I will travel on August 30 to Colombia to meet with President Andres Pastrana and to personally underscore America's support for Colombia's efforts to seek peace, fight illicit drugs, build its economy, and deepen democracy. I am delighted that Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senator Joe Biden, two longtime champions of peace and democracy in Colombia, will join me on the trip.

Colombia's success is profoundly in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, democratic, and economically prosperous Colombia will help to promote democracy and stability throughout the hemisphere.

I have also signed a Presidential decision directive ordering, as a matter of national priority, an intensified effort to aid the Colombian Government in implementing Plan Colombia—President Pastrana's bold plan to build a better future for his country.

The Presidential decision directive complements and supports the \$1.3 billion assistance package that I requested from Congress, and that Democrats and Republicans passed in a bipartisan spirit last month. The cornerstone of our Colombia initiative, this supplemental includes a tenfold increase in U.S. funds to promote good government, judicial reform, human rights protection, and economic development in Colombia. It will help Colombia strengthen its democracy while helping the Government staunch the flow of drugs to our shores.

This directive, along with the sharp increase in funding from Congress, will intensify our efforts to help the Colombian Government implement its comprehensive national strategy. It is the right way to advance America's interests in the region, and I am proud of the bipartisan effort that has made it possible.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 29

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton participated in a staff picnic on the South Lawn at the White House. Later, they traveled to New York City, arriving in the afternoon.

Later, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, New York.

July 30

In the morning, the President traveled to Chicago, IL, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 31

In the morning, the President traveled to Tampa, FL. In the afternoon, he visited the National Football League Tampa Bay Buccaneers training camp facility.

In the evening, the President traveled to Coral Gables, FL.

August 1

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to appoint Craig J. Mundie as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint G. William Ruhl as a member of the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

August 2

In the morning, the President was interviewed by telephone by former Senator John Danforth, the Justice Department-appointed Waco Special Counsel, concerning the investigation into events surrounding the 1993 incident in Waco, TX.